

23189-8501

- 11 -

CLAIMS:

1. A gathered, biaxially oriented, shrinkable tubular film laminate conditioned in ready-to-fill form, comprising an outside film, an inside film and at least one water barrier layer interposed therebetween, wherein said outside film and said inside film are polyamide-based characterized in that said outside film contains a spraying medium in an amount corresponding to the saturation limit thereof.
2. A tubular film laminate according to claim 1 wherein the spraying medium comprises water.
3. A tubular film laminate according to claim 2 wherein the spraying medium further contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of fungicides and preservatives.
4. A tubular film laminate according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the polyamide based films contain at least one linear aliphatic polyamide (PA) selected from the group consisting of PA 6, PA 66, PA 11, PA 12, copolyamide of PA 6,66, copolyamide of PA 4,6, copolyamide of PA 6,6, copolyamide of PA 6,8, copolyamide of PA 6,9, copolyamide of PA 6,10, copolyamide of PA 6,11 and copolyamide of PA 6,12.
5. A tubular film laminate according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the water barrier layer comprises one or more polyolefins having water vapor barrier properties.
6. A tubular film laminate according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and further comprising at least one layer having oxygen-barrier properties.
7. A process for making a gathered film laminate according to claim 1 comprising
 - (i) preparing a biaxially oriented, shrinkable tubular film laminate, and

23189-8501

- 12 -

(ii) spraying on said laminate a spraying medium, and
(iii) gathering said tubular film laminate, and
(iv) storing said gathered tubular film laminate under
conditions sufficient to promote the soaking of said spraying
5 medium into the outer layer.

8. A process according to claim 7 wherein soaking is
to the extent that no liquid droplets are visible on the
surface of said outer layer.

9. A process according to claim 7 wherein the spraying
10 medium comprises water.

10. A process according to claim 9 wherein the spraying
medium further contains at least one member selected from the
group consisting of fungicides and preservatives.

11. A process according to any one of claims 7 to 10
15 wherein spraying is carried out using a droplet size of 0.05
to 0.1 mm.

12. A process according to any one of claims 7 to 11
wherein the spraying is on both sides of said tubular film
laminate.

20 13. In the process for making a gathered, biaxially
oriented, shrinkable tubular film laminate conditioned in
ready-to-fill form, which includes an outside film, an inside
film and at least one water barrier layer interposed there-
between and wherein said outside film and said inside film
25 are polyamide-based, the improvement comprising spraying at
least one of said outside film and said inside film with a
spraying medium, before gathering and storing the gathered
tubular film under conditions that promote soaking of said
spraying medium into said outside film.

23189-8501

- 13 -

14. A method of preparing a sausage that comprises filling a film laminate according to any one of claims 1 to 6 with sausage filling.

15. A sausage composed of sausage filling contained with
5 a film laminate according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

FETHERSTONHAUGH & CO.
OTTAWA, CANADA
PATENT AGENTS